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REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the above application. Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Isogai, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0039472.

The Applicants traverse the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 and submit that the present claims are novel in view of Isogai because the present claims and the prior art significantly differ. In this regard, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 10, and 17 to clarify the scope of the present invention. These amendments are not limiting and are not made for reasons related to patentability.

The Isogai reference discloses a conventional adaptive cruise control system for controlling a target distance between two traveling vehicles. The adaptive cruise control system of Isogai is conventional in that all of the target vehicle detection and data collection is observed from the reference vehicle by way of object detection sensors such as radar or the like. In contrast, each of the claims of the present application require that at least some of the target vehicle data is received by the reference vehicle by way of an inter-vehicle communication system (see Figure 2). This data can include the braking capability of the target vehicle, tire information and vehicle weight of the target vehicle, target vehicle speed, or information regarding the operator of the target vehicle.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1-20 are novel in view of Isogai because each claim requires a data communication between a target vehicle and a reference vehicle by way of an inter-vehicle communication network, which the Isogai reference does not disclose or suggest. Because no information whatsoever is transmitted from the target vehicle to the reference vehicle in the system of Isogai, Applicants further traverse the suggestion in the Office Action that Isogai discloses or suggests the specific types of target vehicle data recited in the dependent claims. No target vehicle data regarding the braking capability of the target vehicle (claim 2) or the tire condition or vehicle weight (claims 3, 12), or the target vehicle operator (claims 5, 13, 14) is communicated from the target vehicle to the reference vehicle. Thus, for at

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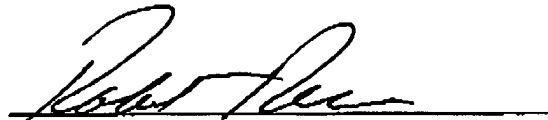
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least these additional reasons, claims 2, 3, 5, 12, 13, 14, and 19 are novel in view of the Isogai reference.

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants submit that claims 1-20 are allowable. Applicants have also corrected the cross reference in the specification to reflect the issued patent referred to therein. Thus, the Applicants respectfully submit that the specification, claims and drawings are in a condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance indicating the same is therefore earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicants' undersigned attorney at (248) 223-9500 if any unresolved matters remain.

Respectfully Submitted,

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